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Activities and budget for UNICEF as the substantive secretariat to the General Assembly special session on the follow-up to the World Summit for Children in 2001 and additional events

Summary

At the second regular Executive Board session in September 1999, the Executive Director presented a document outlining UNICEF support for the follow-up to the World Summit for Children (WSC) since 1990 and the initial support needed for the end-decade review and the preparatory process of the General Assembly special session (E/ICEF/1999/17). In the same document, UNICEF highlighted the unique opportunity presented by the tenth anniversary of WSC and the need to launch a worldwide mobilization campaign. In its decision 1999/12 (E/ICEF/1999/7/Rev.1), the Executive Board approved $2 million from other resources to initiate the process.

The present document outlines how UNICEF has started and will continue to provide substantive and technical support to the preparatory process of the special session on the follow-up to WSC, including the preparatory committee and its bureau. UNICEF will also continue and expand the process of facilitating and encouraging the participation of civil society, children and youth in the planning and implementation stages. UNICEF is initiating an information campaign on children's needs and rights as well as on the special session as requested in General Assembly resolution 54/93 of 7 December 1999.

The Executive Director is requesting that the Executive Board approve additional funding in the amount of $5.4 million from other resources for 2000-2001 to cover the current phase of substantive, technical and advocacy activities in preparation for the special session.

* E/ICEF/2000/9.

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I. Background

World Summit for Children

1. On 30 September 1990, the World Summit for Children (WSC) galvanized a world-wide commitment to children. On that day, 71 heads of State or Government signed the World Declaration and Plan of Action, committing themselves to achieving an agreed set of time-bound goals and mobilizing the human and economic resources required to do so. Subsequently, the World Declaration and Plan of Action were endorsed by 181 countries, 155 of which prepared national programmes of action for children. The Declaration and Plan of Action set forth a vision of a "first call" for children by establishing 7 major and 20 quantified supporting goals that were considered achievable by the year 2000.

General Assembly process

2. The General Assembly, in resolution 45/217 of 21 December 1990, welcomed the adoption of the World Declaration and the Plan of Action by the World Summit, urged all States and other members of the international community to work for the achievement of the goals endorsed therein, and urged donor countries in particular to assist developing countries and agencies of the United Nations system, including their governing bodies, to support follow-up to WSC.

3. General Assembly resolution 54/93 of 7 December 1999, entitled "Special session of the General Assembly in 2001 for follow-up to the World Summit for Children", outlined the basis for the preparatory process. It established an open-ended preparatory committee to address both the organizational issues and to prepare for the outcome of the special session. Portions of the resolution relate specifically to UNICEF, including:

> "9. *Requests* the Secretary-General, with the support of the United Nations Children's Fund, to assist the preparatory committee in providing substantive input to the process and at the special session, including a report on emerging issues to be considered at the substantive session of the preparatory committee in 2000;
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> "20. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in close cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund, to mount a public information programme to raise awareness of children's needs and rights and of the special session, its objectives and significance, and encourages Governments to do the same on a national basis;".

4. The organizational session of the preparatory committee was held from 7 to 8 February 2000 and a bureau was elected. The first substantive session will be held from 30 May to 2 June 2000, at which time the preparatory committee will plan future sessions.

Relevant Executive Board decisions

5. At its annual session in June 1999, the Executive Board requested the Executive Director "to support the Secretary-General in the preparation of the end-

decade review, including an overall assessment of progress achieved and lessons learned during the decade, an analysis of the main factors that have inhibited progress, an overview of remaining challenges and issues, and specific recommendations for the future" (E/ICEF/1999/7/Rev.1, decision 1999/9).

6. At the second regular Executive Board session in September 1999, the secretariat presented an outline of UNICEF support for the follow-up to WSC since 1990 and the initial support needed for the preparatory process for the end-decade review and special session (E/ICEF/1999/17). The same document highlighted the unique opportunity represented by the tenth anniversary of the World Summit and the need to launch a worldwide mobilization campaign. The Board approved start-up funding in the amount of $2 million from other resources to initiate the process (decision 1999/12).

II. Goals

7. As stated in General Assembly resolution 54/93, UNICEF will assist national Governments, at their request, in their assessments and reporting; in providing substantive input to the process and at the special session, including a report on emerging issues; and in preparing the Secretary-General's report to the special session. UNICEF will contribute in ensuring that the entire preparatory process leading to the special session is participatory, including non-governmental organizations and children. In addition, in close collaboration with the Secretary-General, UNICEF will organize a public information programme to raise awareness of children's needs and rights and of the special session, its objectives and significance.

III. Strategy

8. In response to the General Assembly request for UNICEF to form the substantive secretariat for the special session, UNICEF has reviewed the requirements for and the process of the preparation of the special session. A successful special session of the General Assembly will give form and impetus to the realization of children's rights, thus bringing about a major change in the situation of children. The special session will review implementation of the programme of action approved in 1990 by the World Summit and identify what needs to be done to accelerate future progress. The special session is also expected to endorse renewed commitments to children beyond the year 2000. It is planned for a three-day period in September 2001. The General Assembly has invited the participation of heads of State and Government in the special session.

9. To ensure that the special session achieves these goals, UNICEF has begun to mobilize broadly to increase awareness and commitment to children. This broad action for children has been referred to as the "Global Movement for Children", a framework for the first 10 to 15 years of the twenty-first century, based on a review of progress towards the WSC goals and on emerging issues such as poverty, armed conflict, discrimination, and HIV/AIDS among others. It is a renewed effort to broaden, strengthen and focus attention and commitment on common, agreed future actions for children. There are three key elements to the Global Movement for Children that are required to ensure that the special session achieves its goals: (a)

the end-decade review of the WSC goals; (b) the development of a framework of future action for children in the twenty-first century; (c) and a Leadership Initiative to promote it vigorously.

10. The end-decade review of the situation of children is intended to promote a process of national, regional and international reflection and debate on progress towards the WSC goals and fulfilment of children's rights. It will provide an overall assessment of progress achieved and lessons learned, an analysis of the main factors that have inhibited progress, and an overview of the remaining challenges, leading to specific recommendations for the future.

11. The proposal for future action for children in the twenty-first century is being prepared as a background note for action to the United Nations General Assembly special session substantive preparatory committee meeting. Document E/ICEF/1999/13 is also being submitted to the current session of the Executive Board for information. This proposal is intended as a foundation for dialogue leading to consensus on future priorities among a broad range of partners with whom UNICEF shares a common concern for the well-being of children and future human development. Based on external consultations and building on past achievements, it aims to give direction to all involved with the realization of children's rights. It will guide UNICEF strategic choices in the next decade.

12. Through the Leadership Initiative, UNICEF seeks to build an alliance of influential actors — governmental, non-governmental and private sector — who, through their influence to shape national laws, policies, budgets, institutions and programmes, also influence how societies behave towards children and adolescents. A few key actors will be identified, both individuals and organizations, who share the vision and analysis articulated in the proposal and who will identify with and commit to realizing that vision. UNICEF will be one among equal partners, but with a special responsibility as the United Nations agency for children, to support and facilitate development of the Initiative.

IV. Actions to be undertaken by UNICEF

13. The General Assembly has requested UNICEF to be the substantive secretariat for the General Assembly process. Other special sessions have been anchored in a functional commission, e.g. Commission on the Status of Women for the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and the Commission on Population and Development for the follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development. In the case of the follow-up of the WSC +10, UNICEF will, for the first time, be directly servicing a General Assembly process. Appropriate capacity must be created in UNICEF to carry-out this essential function for the special session. A direct liaison has been established with the Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services in order to receive guidance on General Assembly rules and procedures.

Activities with existing resources

14. A preliminary organizational structure has been established and is functioning in UNICEF as described in document E/ICEF/1999/17 and in accordance with the

Board-approved start-up budget of $2 million (decision 1999/12). The Deputy Executive Director, Alliances and Resources, is responsible for leading the preparatory process and providing support to the special session, assisted by a small secretariat. The Deputy Executive Director chairs an interdivisional steering committee in which the Standing Group of National Committees for UNICEF participates. The Global Management Team reviews proposals and progress, and provides recommendations and guidance to the Executive Director.

15. UNICEF is undertaking significant activities as part of its ongoing programmes. Ongoing support will be strengthened for coordinating UNICEF inputs into the end-decade review, including support to country and regional collection of data, identification and analysis of achievements and trends in implementation of the World Declaration and Plan of Action, and of lessons derived therefrom; support to the multiple indicator cluster surveys being undertaken by countries to obtain updated statistics on the situation of children; a review of selected national programmes of action for children to implement the Summit Declaration; a policy analysis which highlights disparity reduction; sectoral evaluations to document the lessons learned over the past decade; the collection and analysis of experience in the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child; and the preparation and dissemination of a summary of cross-cutting issues arising from commitments to the fulfilment of children's and women's rights made at the global conferences of the 1990s. UNICEF is developing a proposal of future actions for children for the twenty-first century through a participatory process with inputs from these activities.

16. Regional consultations have played an important role in the last decade to share a common vision among States of the same region. For the end-decade review process initiated at the country level, some regional end-decade reviews are already planned. The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation has planned such a review. In East Asia and the Pacific, a ministerial consultation on children and development is planned for early 2001 in Beijing. The Latin America and the Caribbean region is organizing a ministerial meeting in Jamaica in October 2000 on children and social policy in the Americas. UNICEF is encouraging other regional constituencies to hold high-level discussions on children's issues. Limited support will be provided to these events, including for the participation of children, youth and civil society organizations in relevant activities.

17. Regional consultations will take place to ensure that other intergovernmental partners such as parliamentarians and municipal leaders are involved as they are instrumental in many countries in ensuring that the priority of children is understood and acted upon by both Governments and civil society. UNICEF will continue to work closely with these partners as they focus on children's issues in various forums.

18. The majority of UNICEF advocacy activities will be devoted to implementing an information campaign to raise awareness of children's needs and rights. *The State of the World's Children 2001* and other publications will be devoted to issues of the special session. The publication will be part of the strategy of building partnerships and mobilization leading up to the 2001 special session. In addition, International Day of Children's Broadcasting media activities and films will be devoted to the information campaign.

Activities requiring additional resources

19. In 2000, the tempo of activities will increase as the scope of partnerships focusing on children expands and the work for the preparatory committee expands. Therefore, additional staff and resources are needed to support the planning process; to work with the United Nations Secretariat, the bureau of the preparatory committee, Governments and other partners to plan and undertake the necessary arrangements; and to prepare and disseminate substantive documentation. A full-time team of staff will research and develop documentation to meet the needs of the preparatory committee and its bureau, and liaise continuously with both internal and external partners to ensure coordination.

20. The work of the substantive secretariat is labour- and staff-intensive, and it will intensify further as the special session draws closer. The budget proposal for the substantive secretariat includes staff costs, office operating expenses, travel and a portion for the accreditation of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that falls under the responsibility of UNICEF.

21. Advocacy, mobilization and communication activities will focus on realizing operative paragraph 20 of General Assembly resolution 45/93. In order to develop a programme of public information, in collaboration with the United Nations Secretariat, UNICEF will undertake a programme of advocacy and communications to generate increased understanding of and support for children's rights, the special session and the preparatory process. Publications, press releases, films and other visual materials will be developed, produced and widely disseminated. All relevant new publications will be versioned for the World Wide Web. In addition, a separate global movement web site in English, French and Spanish will be conceptualized, coordinated, created and maintained to handle feedback. UNICEF will also mobilize its network of Goodwill Ambassadors at international and national levels to support efforts to raise awareness of the needs and rights of children.

22. UNICEF is proposing technical consultations on topics of relevance to the end-decade review to inform and enrich the global debate. Some of the areas of discussions will include country experiences in relation to the development of child-focused budgets, the impact of debt on the allocation of resources for social sectors, and the promotion of social inclusion of children belonging to the poorest groups in society. Participants will be experts from selected Governments and NGOs, multilateral and bilateral donor agencies, and academia. The discussions will contribute to the global mobilization effort, along with additional regional consultations.

23. As recognized by the General Assembly, a special effort will be made to engage civil society organizations (CSOs), to involve new CSO constituencies and to increase awareness among them of good practices to promote children's rights. A series of consultations will be organized by national and regional CSOs. These consultations will allow representatives of all partners in the Global Movement for Children to share lessons learned and jointly commit themselves to specific activities for children, demonstrating a sense of unity of purpose while respecting a diversity of approaches. UNICEF will provide support to these efforts.

24. As requested by the General Assembly, UNICEF will provide support to mobilize partnerships for and with children and youth, especially at regional and national levels. This will include support for youth participation in the analysis and

assessment of the end-decade review and development of the adolescent component of the emerging future actions for children. Children and youth mobilization will be linked to governmental and CSO processes. Publications, including interactive materials using the internet, will be developed in support of youth participation and mobilization.

25. With support from the UNICEF Private Sector Division and others, efforts will be made to identify a significant network of appropriate corporate sector partners to participate in the mobilization and to contribute to its expansion. The UNICEF network of 37 National Committees in the industrialized world is already playing a key role in strengthening collaboration with the private sector.

26. The various national, regional and global events, including the special session, will be the culmination of the WSC + 10 process, leading to a bold commitment for action for the next decade and beyond.

V. Budget

27. The total budget which will enable UNICEF to undertake the above described activities is estimated at $7.4 million. In the summary budget table below, the first column refers to the amount approved by the Executive Board at its second regular session of 1999 (decision 1999/12); the second column refers to the additional funds proposed in this document to be approved by the Executive Board at the present session; and the third column represents the total funding requested by major cost category and activity.

Budget estimate*

(In thousands of United States dollars)

	Approved start-up funding	*Additional funding requested*	*Total*
1. Staff costs			
(a) Substantive secretariat	1 150	450	1 600
(b) Advocacy and mobilization	-	1 690	1 690
Subtotal	**1 150**	**2 140**	**3 290**
2. Advocacy and mobilization			
(a) Global advocacy for children's rights and for the special session	350	1 275	1 625
(b) Children and youth mobilization	150	450	600
(c) Civil society mobilization	-	845	845
(d) Regional advocacy and mobilization	350	690	1 040
Subtotal	**850**	**3 260**	**4 110**
Grand total	**2 000**	**5 400**	**7 400**

* The current budget separates staff costs to allow comparison with the previous Board-approved funding. The proposed resolution which follows integrates these staff costs in each budget line.

VI. Draft resolution

28. The Executive Director *recommends* that the Executive Board adopt the following draft resolution on other resources-funded activities budget estimates for the period 2000-2001:

Other resources-funded activities budget estimates for the period 2000-2001

The Executive Board

Decides:

(a) That a budget of $5,400,000 from other resources is approved for the period 2000-2001, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions:

	In United States dollars
Substantive secretariat	450 000
Global advocacy for children's rights and for the special session	2 020 000
Children and youth mobilization	875 000
Civil society mobilization	1 365 000
Regional advocacy and mobilization	690 000
Total	**5 490 000**

(b) That this budget is an addition to the start-up funding of $2,000,000 from other resources already approved in decision 1999/12 (E/ICEF/1999/7/Rev.1).